Integration of Airborne Aerosol Prediction Systems and Vegetation Phenology to Track Pollen for Asthma Alerts in Public Health Decision Support Systems

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Estelle Levetin & Landon Bunderson Dept. Biology University of Tulsa

Peter K. Van de Water California State University, Fresno

Amy Budge & Bill Hudspeth Earth Data Analysis Center, University of New Mexico

Alfredo Huete, University of Technology Sydney

Alan Zelicoff, St. Louis University & ARES Corporation

Theresa Crimmins & Jake Weltzin USGS National Phenology Network

Heide Krapfl and Barbara Toth, New Mexico Department of Health

# Moscow Birch Pollen







### NASA Public Health Review September 2012

#### **Transitions**

#### Science Update

- 1. Pollen Sampling
- 2. Pollen Source Concentration Masks
- 3. PREAM
- 4. New Mexico

#### **Outreach Activities**

- 1. National Phenology Network
- 2. Pollen outreach proposal declined
- 3. Medical Community

Presentations/Publications

**Students** 

Housekeeping-Schedule, Budget, Problems



FY13 Plans

### **Transitions**



Anup Prasad Chapman University back to India

Alfredo Huente permanently at University of Technology Sydney

Al Zelicoff to St. Louis University

Margaret Menache replaced by Barbara Toth

Ana Vukovic & Mirjam Vujadinovic <sup>f</sup>Faculty of Agriculture, University of Belgrade, Serbia

Viviana Balzaretti - volunteer 2 pollen count stations Los Alamos

Health issues with team members





# Pollen Release



# Pollen per cone

Sonora 472,000 pollen grains/cone

Dallas 402,000 pollen grains/cone

San Marcos 374,000 pollen grains/cone

Junction 363,000 pollen grains/cone



# Cone and pollen production for representative trees

	Cones/tree	Total pollen potential
Santa Fe - LCP	52,808	1.53 x 10 <sup>10</sup>
Santa Fe - HCP	646,496	1.87 x 10 <sup>11</sup>
Jemez Springs - HCP	269,946	7.83 x 10 <sup>10</sup>

# Summary Statistics for 2010 and 2011 *Juniperus* pinchotii pollen seasons at source

Location	Average daily concentration Pollen grains/ m3	Peak daily concentration Pollen grains/ m3	Date of peak	Peak hourly concentration Pollen grains/m3	Time of peak hour	Date of peak hour
		2	010			
Erick, OK	337	5,563	25-Oct	15,898	10:00 AM	25-Oct
Sonora, TX	286	3,019	25-Oct	12,152	10:00 AM	25-Oct
San Angelo, TX	653	5,542	1-Nov	10,195	Noon	1-Nov
2011						
Erick, OK	12	214	16-Oct	800	10:00 AM	16-Oct
Sonora, TX	64	428	26-Oct	2,422	10:00 AM	31-Oct
San Angelo, TX	60	493	26-Oct	2,747	4:00 AM	26-Oct
Quanah, TX	22	190	19-Oct	703	8:00 PM	19-Oct

# Influence of preseason meteorological variables for *Juniperus ashei*

### Start date

Significantly correlated with mean monthly temperature in December (r = 0.467, p = 0.038) and November rainfall (r = 0.468, p = 0.038)

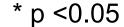
### Cumulative Season Total (CST)

Significantly correlated with mean maximum temperature in December (r = 0.4740, p = 0.035)



Correlation of average daily *Juniperus* pollen concentration with meteorological variables from 1987 to 2006

Meteorological Variable	Main season r		
Max daily temperature	0.607***		
Min daily temperature	0.371***		
Mean daily temperature	0.546***		
Rainfall	-0.143***		
Rainfall (1 day lag)	-0.164***		
Rainfall (2 day lag)	-0.069		
RH	-0.282***		
Mean wind speed	0.117**		
Sunshine	0.257***		





# Multiple regression model for main season pollen concentration and meteorological variables

R <sup>2</sup>	Meteorological variable	Beta value	р
0.379			<0.001
	Max daily temperature	0.583	<0.001
	Rainfall	-0.071	0.014
	Rainfall (1 day lag)	-0.064	0.027
	Mean wind speed	0.033	0.253



## Multiple Regression Model for Start Date and Preseason Meteorological Variables

$R^2$	Meteorological variable	Beta value	р
0.736			<0.003
	November rain	0.795	0.001
	December mean T	0.566	0.004
	January rain	0.559	0.009
	October rain	-0.500	0.016
	November mean T	0.502	0.032
	August rain	0.316	0.104



## Multiple Regression Model for CST and Preseason Meteorological Variables

$R^2$	Meteorological variable	Beta value	р
0.639			<0.019
	December maximum T	0.754	0.002
	June rain	0.469	0.021
	December rain	-0.384	0.045
	January mean T	-0.237	0.211
	September rain	-0.285	0.148
	January rain	-0.208	0.262

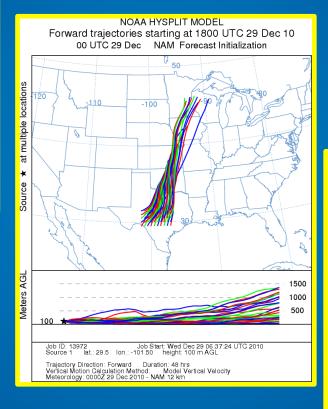


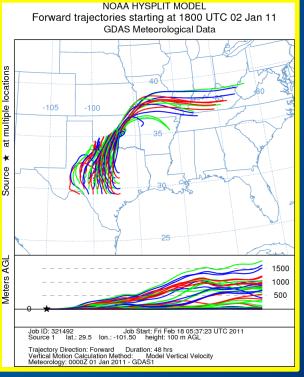
### Red Cedar Encroachment

- Oklahoma has 17 million acres of prairie, shrub land, cross timbers forests and other forests
- > 1950: 1.5 million acres with cedar problems
- > 1985: 3.5 million acres with cedar problems
- > 1994: 6.3 million acres with 50 trees/acre and 2.5 million acres with 250 trees/acre 37% loss of native ecosystems
- ➤ 2001: 8.0 million acres with 50 trees/acre and 5.0 million acres with 250 trees/acre this represented a 47% loss of native ecosystems
- > 2013 projection: 12.6 million acres with 50 trees/acre and 8.00 million with 250 trees/acre

### NOAA HYSPLIT MODEL Forward trajectories starting at 1800 UTC 08 Jan 11 12 UTC 08 Jan NAM Forecast Initialization at multiple locations Meters AGL 4000 3000 2000 Trajectory Direction: Forward Duration: 48 hrs Vertical Motion Calculation Method: Model Vertical Velocity Meteorology: 1200Z 8 Jan 2011 - NAM 12 km

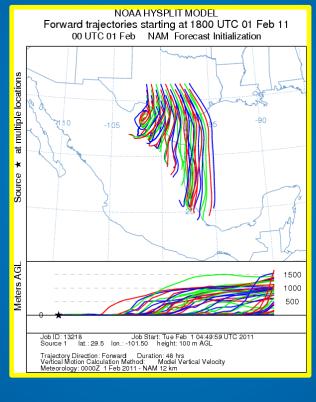
# **Northerly Flow**

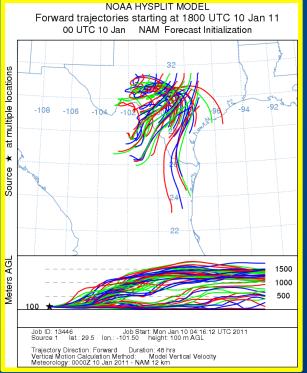




## NOAA HYSPLIT MODEL Forward trajectories starting at 1800 UTC 02 Feb 11 00 UTC 02 Feb NAM Forecast Initialization at multiple locations Meters AGL 1000 Job Start: Wed Feb 2 03:25:24 UTC 2011 Source 1 lat.: 29.5 lon.: -101.5 height: 100 m AGL Trajectory Direction: Forward Duration: 48 hrs Vertical Motion Calculation Method: Model Vertical Velocity Meteorology: 0000Z 2 Feb 2011 - NAM 12 km

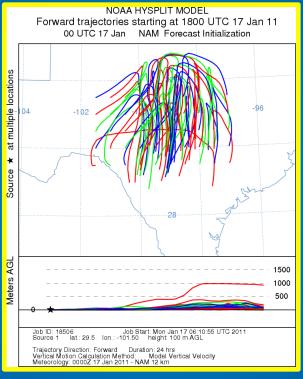
# Southerly Flow

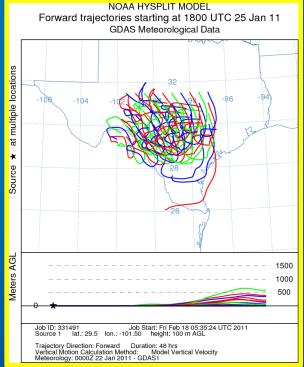




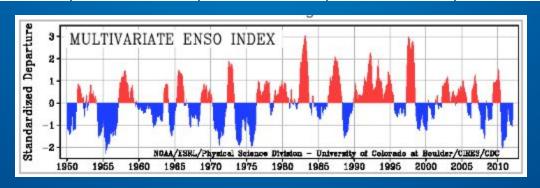
## NOAA HYSPLIT MODEL Forward trajectories starting at 1800 UTC 06 Jan 11 00 UTC 06 Jan NAM Forecast Initialization at multiple locations -104 1500 1000 902 Job Start: Thu Jan 6 04:08:04 UTC 2011 lat.: 29.5 Ion.: -101:50 height: 100 m AGL Trajectory Direction: Forward Duration: 48 hrs Vertical Motion Calculation Method: Model Vertical Velocity Meteorology: 0000Z 6 Jan 2011 - NAM 12 km

# Within Texas





Trajectory Wind Directions						
	Southerly	Northerly	Within TX	Other		
2007 to 2008 Pollen Year						
	17%	54%	24%	5%		
2008 to 2009 Pollen Year						
	12%	68%	7%	12%		
2009 to 2010 Pollen Year						
	31%	50%	7%	11%		
2010 to 2011 Pollen Year						
	26%	41%	30%	4%		
2011 to 2012 Pollen Year						
	18%	54%	16%	13%		

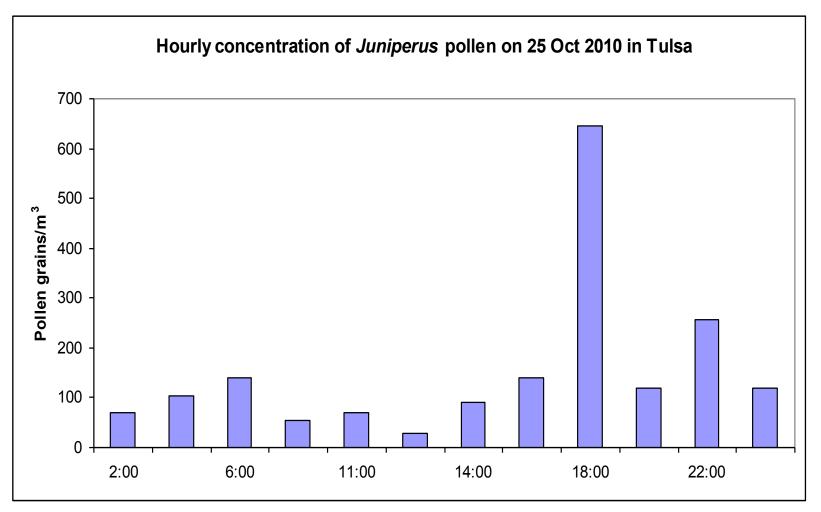


### Incursion of *J. ashei* Pollen into Tulsa

- ▶ Each winter since 1980 *J. ashei* pollen has been registered by our Tulsa air samplers
  - Levetin and Buck, Annals of Allergy, 1986.
  - Levetin, Aerobiologia, 1998
  - Rogers and Levetin, Int J Biometeorol, 1998
  - Van de Water and Levetin, Grana, 200 I
  - Van de Water et al, Int J Biometeorol, 2003
- Pollen recorded on 48% of the days in Dec and Jan (range 11% to 79%)
- Concentrations typically low; however, "Very High" concentrations have been registered on several occasions (based on National Allergy Bureau level of very high > 1500 pollen grains/m³)

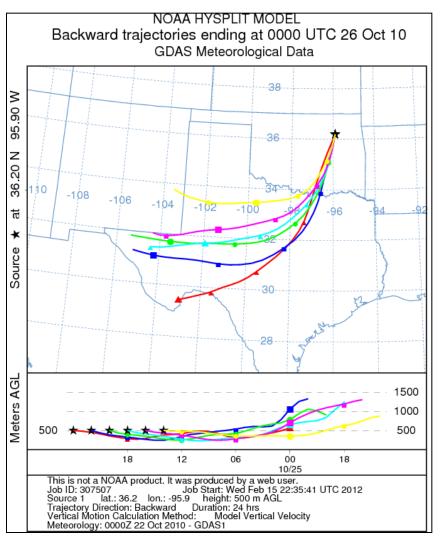


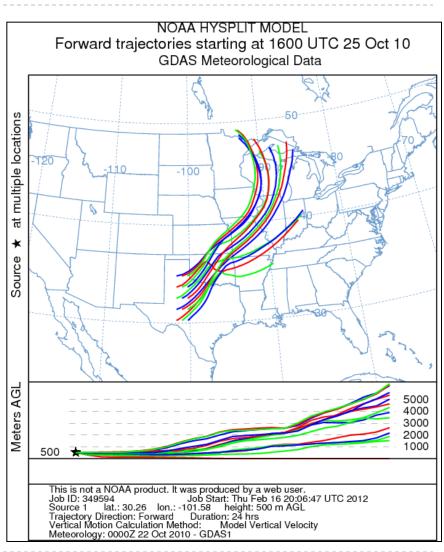
25 Oct 2010 incursion of *Juniperus* pollen into the Tulsa atmosphere with a average daily concentration of 106 pollen/m<sup>3</sup>





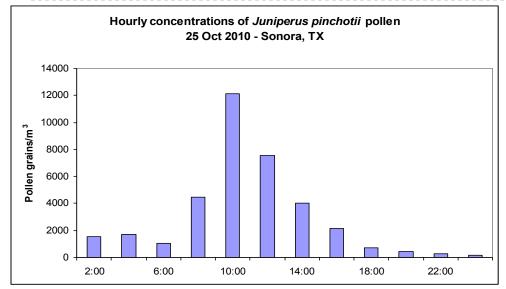
# Trajectory analysis indicates the pollen originated in southwest Texas approximately 8 hours earlier

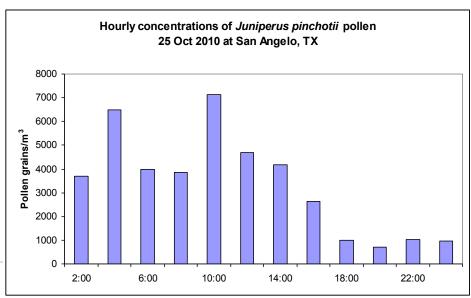


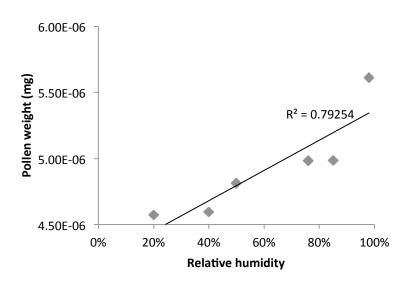




# Juniperus pinchotii concentrations at Sonora and San Angelo confirm the trajectory model

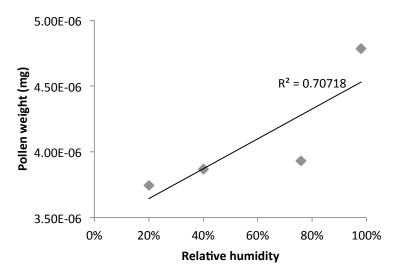






Estimated weight per pollen grain (*J. monosperma*) after 2 hrs across the range of relative humidity levels at 20° C

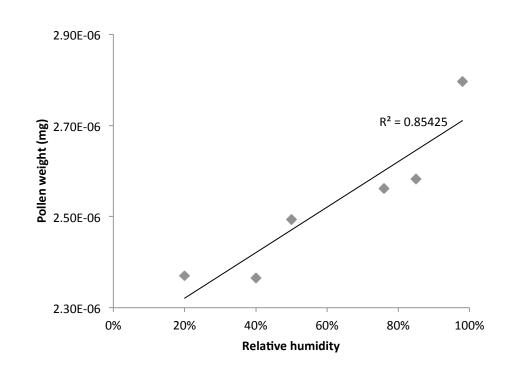
While *J. monosperma* and *J. pinchotii* were larger in size, their percent weight gain was similar to that of *J. ashei*.



Estimated weight per pollen grain (*J. pinchotii*) after 2 hrs across the range of relative humidity levels at 20° C

# Hygroscopic Weight Gain of *Juniperus*Pollen

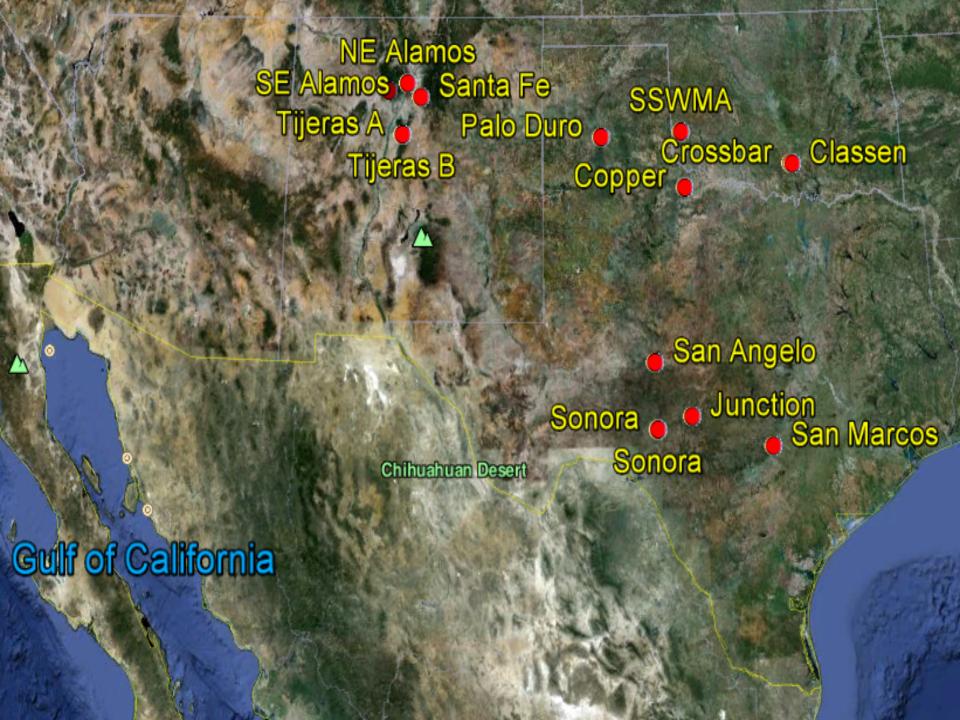
- •Juniperus ashei, J. monosperma, and J. pinchotii were dusted on greased slides and exposed to a range of temperatures and humidity levels and weighed at 2 hrs and 6 hrs.
- •J. ashei was weighed at temperatures 4° C, 15° C, and 20° C at relative humidity levels; 20%, 40%, 50%, 75%, 86%, 97%.
- •Weight was not significantly affected by temperature or time.



Estimated weight per pollen grain (*J. ashei*) after 2 hrs across the range of relative humidity levels at 20° C

# Final Year's Tasks

- Finish the manuscript on humidity experiments.
- Complete the air sampling quality control and summarize all the air sampling data for *Juniperus ashei, J. pinchotii, and J. monospera.*
- Complete the analysis of the effects of meteorological conditions on airborne pollen levels.
- Prepare manuscripts describing the aerobiology of each species.



### Pollen release potential Source Map/Mask

(PRPSM\_of\_J<sub>i</sub>) of a Juniper species "*i*" is calculated as:

$$PRPSM_of_J_i = T_i \times M_i \times H_i \times C_i \times P_i$$

Where

 $T_i$  = Number of  $J_i$  trees

 $M_i$  = Male/Female ratio of  $J_i$ 

 $H_i = HCP_LCP/All ratio for J_i$ 

 $C_i$  = Cones per  $J_i$  tree

 $P_i$  = Pollens per cone for  $J_i$ 

The number of trees of a Juniper species "i" per grid cell is calculated as

$$T_i = GAP_i \times MODIS \times TC$$

Where

 $GAP_i$  = Fraction of  $J_i$  at 1 km grid (range 0-1)

MODIS = MODIS derived percent tree cover per 1 km<sup>2</sup> grid cell (in fraction, range 0-1)

TC = Tree count or number of trees.

# Ground truth (transect data)

- (a) Male to Female ratio
- (b) HCP\_LCP to All ratio
  - 0 Only enough cones to determine gender
  - \* 1 Low Cone Production (LCP) tree
  - 2 High Cone Production (HCP) tree

- (c) Cones per tree
- (d) Pollens per cone
- (d) Age

(Height & edge effect)

## Juniper Species and Pollination Season

❖ Juniper Ashei (J<sub>a</sub>) is mostly found to be distributed over Texas and Oklahoma and pollinates during December to January. Thus, the dispersion of juniper pollens during December-January is mostly restricted to J<sub>a</sub> type..

❖ Juiper Pinchotti (J<sub>p</sub>) is mostly distributed over Texas and pollinated during late September-November. Thus, the dispersion of juniper pollens during this period is mostly restricted to J<sub>p</sub> type.

❖ Juniper monosperma (J<sub>m</sub>) and Juniper scopulurum (J<sub>s</sub>) are prevalent in New Mexico and pollinates during March-May period. Thus, the dispersion of juniper pollens during this period is mostly restricted to J<sub>m</sub> and J<sub>s</sub> type.

### Field data

- Juniper Ashei
- Juniper Pinchotii
- Juniper monosperma and scopulorum

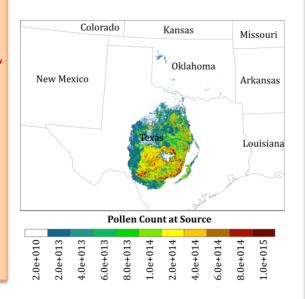
# Information Needed (to update mask): For all sampling sites:

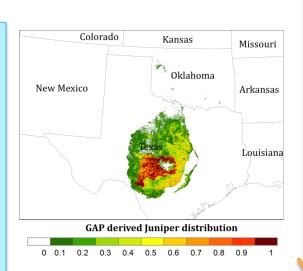
- HCP/LCP/0
- Male/Female ratio
- Number of trees (tree density)
- Number of cones
- Pollens/cone

derived distribution

## Juniper Ashei

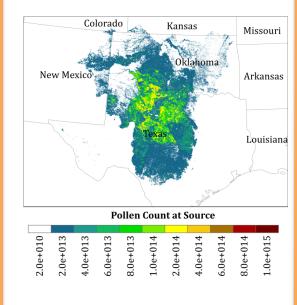
December to January

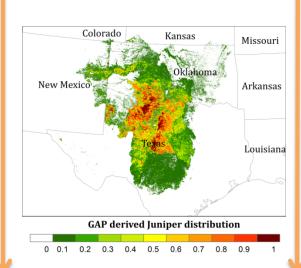




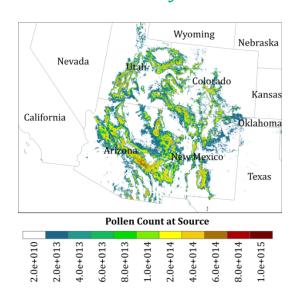
### Juniper Pinchotii

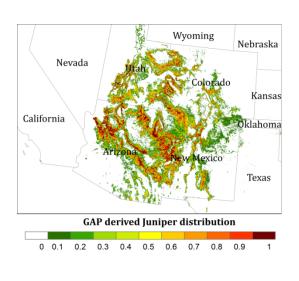
*late September-November* 





# Juniper Monosperma & Scopulorum March-May





#### **PREAM**

### Pollen Plume Simulation for Juniper Emissions For the period 15 December 2009 – 1 January 2010

Run by Slobodan Nickovic, September 2012

### Atmosphere Model Setup

Model horizontal domain: Southwest US

Model resolution: ~40 km

Simulation period:

15 December 2009 – 1 January 2010

Boundary conditions: 1 degree global forecasts used to refresh

- initial conditions every 24 hours
- boundary conditions every 6 hours

#### **PREAM**

### Pollen Plume Simulation for Juniper Emissions For the period 15 December 2009 – 1 January 2010

### <u>PREAM – Pollen Regional Atmospheric Model</u>

Derived from DREAM (dust), modified to simulate pollen

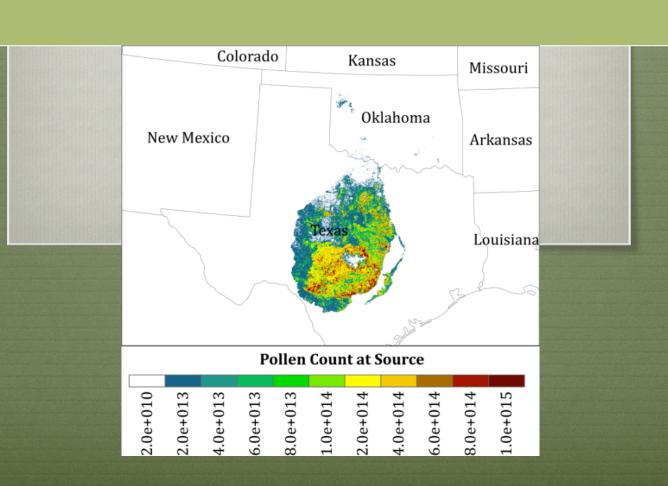
- 4 particles bins
- PREAM is online driven by the NCEP/ETA

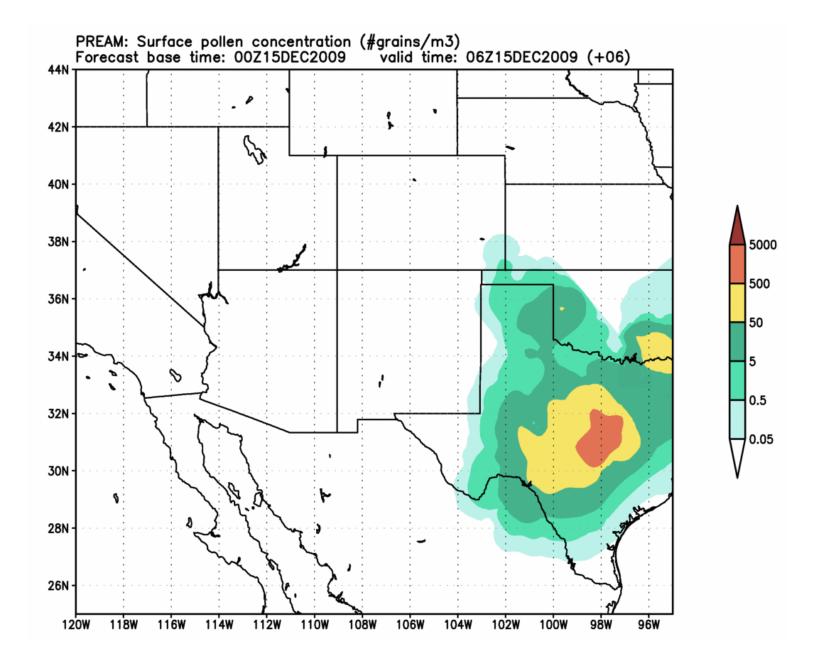
#### Emission:

- Viscous-sublayer parameterization
- Emission dependent on friction velocity

### The PREAM 15 December 2009-1 January 2010 Run

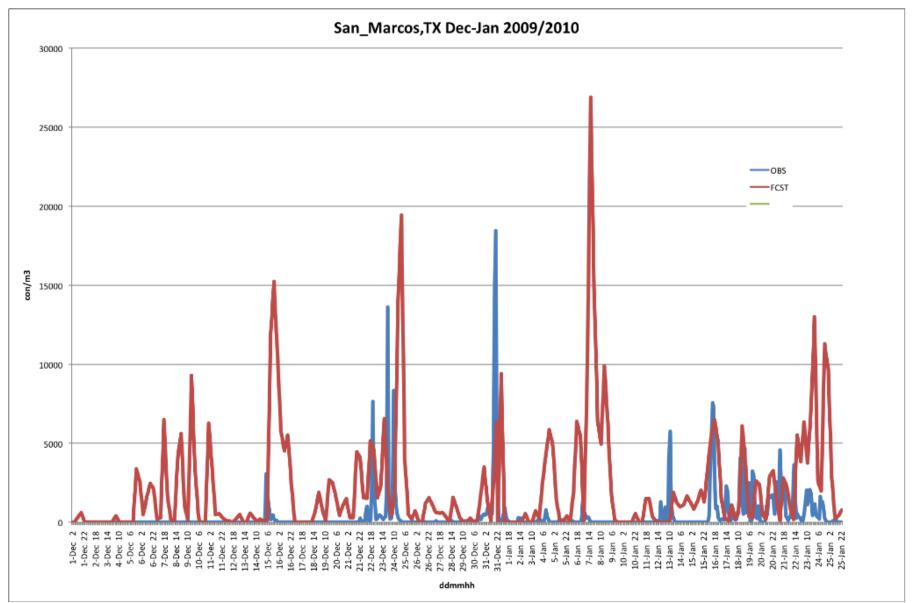
- "cold start" used for the very first day
- simulated 3D concentration from the previous day is the initial condition for the next day simulation





## Model Validation (Juniper pollen count/ m<sup>2</sup>)







Integration of Airborne Dust Prediction
Systems and Vegetation Phenology to
Track Pollen for Asthma Alerts in Public
Health Decision Support Systems

EDAC Project Team Report

Amy Budge

Bill Hudspeth



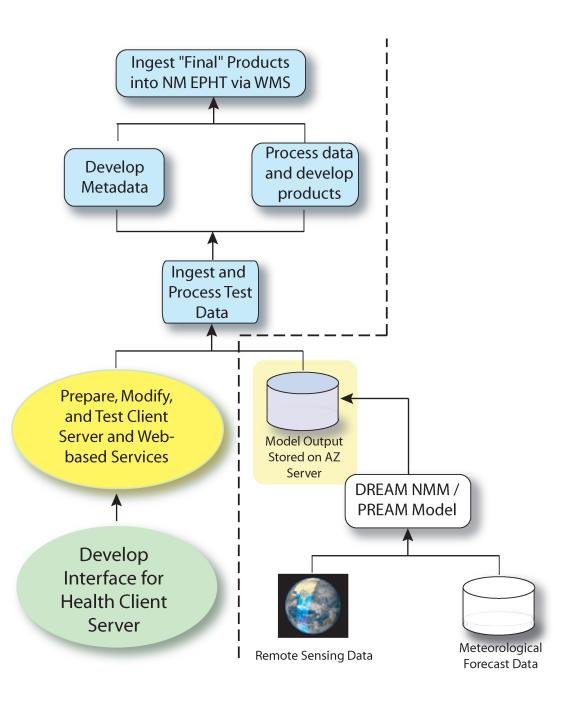


# Progress (June-August 2012)

Primary work includes programming tasks aimed at storing data, post-processing raw modeled pollen data, and developing visualizations of the output data.

# Status of Transitioning Pollen Data Into NM EPHT

- Progress in year 1 (green oval):
  - Prepare interface for health client server
  - Prepare server for pollen data output
- Test server functions: (yellow oval):
  - Dependent upon receiving sample data from modeling team
- Activities for out years: (blue boxes)



# Post-processing Workflow

#### Acquire Pollen Forecast Output Files (.txt)

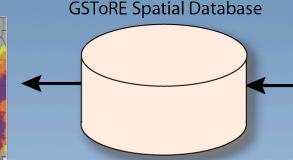
#### Dream-pollen fct:06.03.2006. conc\*1.e+18 time 45.00 -127.00 -9999.000 -9999.000 -9999.000 -9999.000 45.00 - 126.75 - 9999.000 - 9999.000 - 9999.000 - 9999.000 45.00 - 126.50 - 9999.000 - 9999.000 - 9999.000 - 9999.000 45.00 -126.25 -9999.000 -9999.000 -9999.000 -9999.000 45.00 - 126.00 - 9999.000 - 9999.000 - 9999.000 - 9999.000 45.00 -125.75 -9999.000 -9999.000 -9999.000 -9999.000 44.25 -121.75 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 44.25 -121.50 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 44.25 -121.25 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 44.25 -121.00 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 44.25 - 120.75 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000

#### **PREAM Post-Processing Script**

- 1. Read text file contents into Python lists while parsing hourly columns into separate data structures.
- 2. Convert Python lists into Python numPy Arrays.
- 3. Reconfigure numPy array into correct array dimensions.
- 4. Apply multiplication factor to each grid value. Export to GeoTiff using GDAL libraries.
- 6. Write records to GSToRE geospatial database and enable WMS, WCS services.

#### Store GeoTiffs on File System

WMS / WCS Services



-rw-r-r-- 1 bhudspeth bhudspeth 13643 2012-03-21 15:16 20060216\_06.tiff-rw-r-r-- 1 bhudspeth bhudspeth 13643 2012-03-21 15:16 20060216\_12.tif
-rw-r-r-- 1 bhudspeth bhudspeth 13643 2012-03-21 15:16 20060216\_18.tif
-rw-r-r-- 1 bhudspeth bhudspeth 13643 2012-03-21 15:16 20060216\_24.tif
-rw-r-r-- 1 bhudspeth bhudspeth 13643 2012-03-21 15:16 20060217\_06.tif
-rw-r-r-- 1 bhudspeth bhudspeth 13643 2012-03-21 15:16 20060217\_18.tif
-rw-r--- 1 bhudspeth bhudspeth 13643 2012-03-21 15:16 20060217\_24.tif
-rw-r--- 1 bhudspeth bhudspeth 13643 2012-03-21 15:16 20060218\_06.tif
-rw-r--- 1 bhudspeth bhudspeth 13643 2012-03-21 15:16 20060218\_18.tif
-rw-r---- 1 bhudspeth bhudspeth 13643 2012-03-21 15:16 20060218\_18.tif
-rw-r---- 1 bhudspeth bhudspeth 13643 2012-03-21 15:16 20060218\_18.tif
-rw-r---- 1 bhudspeth bhudspeth 13643 2012-03-21 15:16 20060218\_24.tif

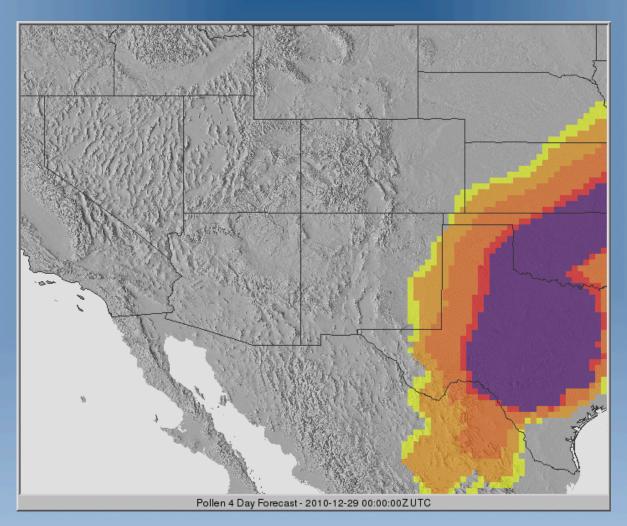
# Summary of Programming Tasks

- Created permanent directory structure
- Set up time-enabled geodatabase
- Developed script for post-processing pollen geotiffs from the raw data
- Added time-enabled WMS for pollen products to the EPHT map services
- Developed script to use WMS to build animation gifs

# Modeled Output Received and Processed

- Raw data have been received and post-processed for model runs from:
  - December 1, 2010 through January 29, 2011
  - December 1 through December 31, 2009
  - February 16 through March 20, 2006
- 496 files (124 individual days of data) have been processed into geotiffs and stored on EDAC servers
- Visualization products such as animations, are generated from the geotiffs

# Sample Animation for *Juniperus ashei* (Dec 29, 2010 to Jan 1, 2011)



# Timeline & Expected Accomplishments

Task	Target Date	Status
Test new format with script & ingesting pollen output formats	4-1-12	Done
Communicate regularly w/modeling team; establish formats; establish production download of outputs	5-1-12	In progress
Meet w/NMDOH to identify & design products	5-1-12	1 <sup>st</sup> mtg held in Mar
Design & build file structure & database	6-1-12	Done
Design & build map service	7-1-12	Done
Develop post-processing scripts to build archive; identify server for receiving modeled data	9-1-12	In progress
Post-process model output data	11-1-12	Done
Ready to accept data stream	11-1-12	Waiting

# Timeline & Expected Accomplishments

Task	Target Date	Status
Develop (modify) & test web-based client server	1-1-13	
Install client server & model interface on EPHT	3-1-13	
Develop value-added products of pollen forecasts	5-1-13	
Maintain quasi-operational client server	TBD	
Introduce, initiate & test prototype server access for NM, OK, & TX public health services	TBD	
Evaluate results & complete system transition	TBD	
Assess continued use of system by NM, OK, TX	TBD	
Formulate recommendations for improvement	TBD	
Prepare quarterly reports	Every quarter	
Prepare annual reports	Annually	
Prepare final report	3-31-14	

# Data & Interactions Needed

### From modeling team:

- Ongoing dialog/contact with EDAC
- "Final" output product for data stream to AZ(?) server

## From pollen data team:

- Assistance for contacting public health offices/ services in OK & TX
- Coordination in developing transition plan to OK & TX

Help Cancel Submit Report





**ABOUT** 

**PARTICIPATE** 

RESOURCES

**EDUCATION** 

RESULTS

**ARCHIVE** 

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#### **USA National Phenology Network**

The USA National Phenology Network brings together citizen scientists, government agencies, non-profit groups, educators and students of all ages to monitor the impacts of climate change on plants and animals in the United States. The network harnesses the power of people and the Internet to collect and share information, providing researchers with far more data than they could collect alone.

Learn more about us

#### What is phenology?

Phenology refers to recurring plant and animal life cycle stages, or phenophases, such as leafing and flowering, maturation of agricultural plants, emergence of insects, and migration of birds. Many of these events are sensitive to climatic variation and change, and are simple to observe and record. As an USA-NPN observer, you can help scientists identify and understand environmental trends so we can better adapt to climate change.

#### Why is phenology important?

# Join Us! We are looking for volunteers to help us monitor plant and animal species found across the United States. Click "Observe" to join us! Observe Featured Projects

1 of 2

Sponsors









# **Progress to Date**

- Developed monitoring protocols for four juniper species
- Created data entry user interface and database
- Developed JPP page on USA-NPN website
- Created JPP logo, engagement materials, training materials
  - 1/3 page flyer
  - Scripted training presentation
  - 1-page "tip sheet"
- Created link from USA-NPN home page to JPP page
- Highlighting JPP in presentations, newsletters, and meetings
- NASA ROSES Outreach Supplemental proposal (submitted Sep 2011; notification Feb 2012)

#### **Publications & Presentations**

#### **Submitted:**

Influence Of Juniper Cone Density On Spectral Reflectances and Vegetation Indices IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Letters

#### Accepted:

"Predicting and Quantifying Pollen Production in *Juniperus ashei* Forests Phytologia. Dec 2012 issue (Vol 94 No. 3)

"Juniper Pollen Hotspots in the Southwest" was submitted for the 2013 AAAAI annual meeting

An invited seminar entitled "Pollen Forecasting and Exposure: A View from Space" will be presented at the 2013 AAAAI annual meeting.

AGU 2012 & AMS 2013





#### **Pollen Sampling Activities**

Sampling completed
Pollen release timing concentrations & microclimate
Humidity effects on pollen weight/extine separation
ID & Obtain pollen count data from creditable sources

#### Remotely Sensed Data

Track phenology to ID pollen (male cones) formation & density (MODIS) Refine pollen source masks for all Juniper communities

#### **DREAM Modeling**

Use measured surface pollen concentrations from sample sites Humidity effects on weight Spatial /time resolution Parameterization & Optimization Output products into EPHTN Ongoing validation

#### Public Health Support

Modification of SYRIS to accept PREAM output via EDAC Data products for EPHTN



# Problems, Delays, Challenges/Risks

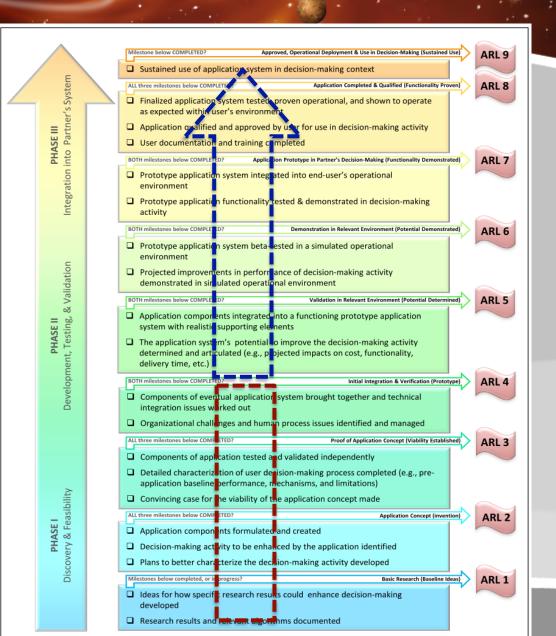
#### • Problems:

Irregular communication between project partners

## Delays:

- Long gaps between receiving model outputs from modelers
- Challenges/Risks:
  - Engaging health community
  - Transitioning prototype to public health offices

# Application Readiness Level Status





Pollen July 31		PY12				
PI/POC	Institution	Budget	Obligated	Unobligated	Costed	Uncosted
Luvall	NASA Marshall Space Flight Center	21,638	17,999	3,639	17,999	3,639
Sprigg	University of Arizona	170,202	170,202	-	-	170,202
Budge	University of New Mexico	76,794	76,794	-	11,605	65,189
Van de Water	California State University Fresno	13,641	13,641	-	3,405	10,236
Levetin	University Of Tulsa	30,536	30,536	-	-	17,700